

Proclamation 6512 of December 2, 1992

Wright Brothers Day, 1992

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In this last decade of the 20th century, as we assess the great scientific and technological achievements of the past 100 years, one event continues to shine forth as a triumph of human ingenuity and labor: Orville and Wilbur Wright's first successful flight above the windswept dunes of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Although their handcrafted aircraft bucked and dipped through its low, brief flight of some 120 feet, the potential for human progress—in aviation, engineering, and countless other fields—at that moment soared. In many ways, we have never looked back.

With the world's first, controlled manned flight in a mechanically propelled, heavier-than-air aircraft, Orville and Wilbur Wright launched the age of aviation and, in so doing, changed forever the world in which we live. Today millions of people travel throughout the world by air—often in planes that boast wingspans longer than the distance covered by the Wrights' first flight. From cargo jets used in private commerce to military aircraft employed in our Nation's defense and vital humanitarian missions, present-day aircraft play an indispensable role in ensuring America's economic growth and national security. In addition, the continuing success of our Space Shuttle Program points toward an exciting future of exploration above Earth's atmosphere and throughout the solar system. Clearly, the uses of aviation have developed far beyond the original expectations of Wilbur Wright, who, in a classic example of understatement, predicted that the airplane would "always be limited to special purposes," serving as "a factor" in war and possibly "[having] a future as a carrier of mail."

By commemorating the historic events of December 17, 1903, the day that Orville and Wilbur Wright triumphed over the force of gravity and the skepticism of friends, we not only celebrate the many uses of aviation but also recall the infinite value of labor and learning, courage and perseverance. Known to many as the owners of a modest bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio, the Wrights were, in fact, gifted, painstaking, and keenly perceptive engineers. In addition to experimenting time and again with airplane models and wind tunnels, the Wrights also sifted carefully through data that had been collected by other scientists and engineers, dismissing that which proved unreliable and developing much of the existing handbook on fundamental aerodynamics. Yet it was Nature herself that inspired these pioneers, who achieved three-axis control in flight by closely observing the motion of birds.

Eager to learn at every trial and opportunity, the Wrights realized their dreams of manned flight and provided succeeding generations with a timeless example of the rewards of education and hard work. We do well to honor their memory, and as a result of legislation signed into law last October, future Americans will have an opportunity to learn more about the Wrights through the Dayton Aviation National Historic Park.

The Congress, by a joint resolution approved December 17, 1963 (77 Stat. 402; 36 U.S.C. 169), has designated the 17th day of December of

each year as "Wright Brothers Day" and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation commemorating that day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim December 17, 1992, as Wright Brothers Day. I invite all Americans to observe that day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6513 of December 8, 1992

Human Rights Day, Bill of Rights Day, and Human Rights Week, 1992

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

This week, as we commemorate the ratification of our Bill of Rights on December 15, 1791, we not only give thanks for our Nation's enduring legacy of liberty under law but also celebrate its role in promoting human rights around the world.

Our Bill of Rights guarantees, among other basic liberties, freedom of religion, speech, and the press. It affirms the right of the people to keep and bear arms; ensures that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; and guarantees the right of citizens to be secure against unreasonable searches and seizure of their persons, houses, papers, and effects. The Bill of Rights also establishes fundamental rules of fairness in our Nation's judicial system, including the right to trial by jury, assistance of counsel, and freedom from cruel and unusual punishment. Finally, the Bill of Rights reserves to the States respectively, or to the people, those powers that are not delegated to the Federal Government by the Constitution.

Seventeen additional amendments have been added to our Constitution over the past 200 years, but the Bill of Rights has remained a shining symbol of our liberty—a standard against which we measure the legitimacy of American laws and institutions.

Over time, the Bill of Rights has proved to be a cornerstone as well: today we recognize that great document as the foundation of more recent charters of liberty, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948. Recognizing that respect for "the inherent dignity and . . . the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world," signers of the Declaration affirmed that "everyone has the right to life, liberty, and the security of person." Signers likewise stated that "all are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law." They agreed to respect freedom of thought, conscience, and religion for all, without regard to race, na-